

The claims remaining in the application are 1-4, 6-7, 17-20, 29-39, 45-56, and 61-64.

REMARKS

The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the quick and courteous Office Action.

In a telephone conference between the Applicants' attorney and Examiner Yoon on July 29, 2004, the Examiner noted that the designation of the Action as final on the Office Action Summary was inadvertently incorrect and should not have been made. The Examiner asked that this be pointed out in the Amendment to clarify that the Action is non-final, and the Applicants are so doing.

The Applicants greatly appreciate the Examiner's allowance of method claims 33-39, 45-56 and 61-64. The Applicants are also grateful for the withdrawal of the rejection based on O'Mara, et al.

35 U.S.C. §102/§103 Rejection over WO 98/16586

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious over WO 98/16586.

The Examiner maintains the rejection for the reason of record and had the following response.

The Examiner finds that claim 1 recites that the shell acts as an anti-agglomeration agent (without particular materials), and claim 5 recites that a coating of an anti-agglomeration agent is applied during and/or after the encapsulated compound is ground (without particular materials). Thus, the Examiner asserts that the shell and said coating can be the same material in the claimed final product.

The Examiner finds that WO 98/16586 teaches a stable, nonagglomerating powder in abstract and thus the wax of WO 98/16586 inherently acts as an anti-agglomeration agent. The Examiner notes that the Applicants state that the core and shell are reactively linked. But Applicants also state that said reactive linking does not necessarily mean a covalent bond between the core and shell, but rather any adhesive force such as static

force or hydrogen bonding. The Examiner alleges that the wax and any polymer of WO 98/16586 inherently possess such adhesive force.

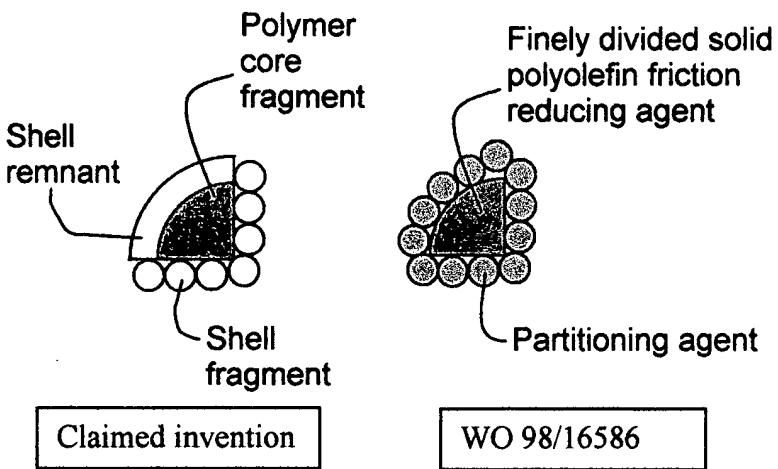
The Examiner in the Advisory Action dated May 26, 2004 that with respect to claims 1-7 allegedly obvious over WO 98/16586, the Examiner may agree with the Applicants' drawing of the claimed invention where core and shell are covalently bonded and a gentle grinding method is utilized. However, the Examiner alleges that the instant claim encompasses weak bonding forces such as static force or hydrogen bonding and very severe grinding method, and thus Applicants' assertion has little probative value. The Examiner contends that a shell encapsulated core with weak static force would not yield the asserted continuous partial coating when very severe grinding method is used and Applicants allegedly have failed to show otherwise. In the Action dated July 6, 2004, the Examiner reiterated that the instant claims do not recite any particular grinding method, and thus a severe grinding method destroying shell completely falls within the scope of the claim. The Examiner contends that a severe grinding method would yield the drawing on the right side of page 12 in Applicants' response filed May 10, 2004.

The Applicants must respectfully traverse.

The Applicants would again respectfully remind the Examiner that a patent claim is anticipated, and therefore invalid, only when a single prior art reference discloses each and every limitation of the claim. *Glaxo Inc. v. Novopharm Ltd.*, 52 F.3d 1043, 1047, 34 U.S.P.Q.2d 1565 (Fed. Cir.), cert. denied, 116 S.Ct. 516 (1995). Further, to support an obviousness rejection, the Examiner has the initial burden of establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness of the pending claims over the cited prior art, *In re Oeticker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 1445; 24 U.S.P.Q.2d 1443 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

The Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to the amendment to claim 1 herein where the grinding method has now been specified as cryogenic. Support for this amendment is found in the specification as filed on page 8, lines 25-27 where it is noted, "The grinding or particle size reduction may be performed by any suitable attrition method including, but not necessarily limited to, pressure grinding, *cryogenic grinding*, attrition mills, rotor/stator homogenizers." (Emphasis added.) Of the various possible size reduction methods listed, cryogenic grinding is the least severe. Cryogenic temperatures would

make the capsules (shell and core) brittle and easier to comminute into smaller fragments. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the claim now recites the specific, most gentle grinding method originally described in the specification. As the Examiner admits, a more gentle grinding method would yield the drawing on the left side of the sketch below, which shows schematic representations of the cross-section of the resulting particulate compounds from the invention as recited in amended claim 1 (left), compared with the corresponding particle of WO 98/16586 (right).



On the left side of the sketch, in the cross-section of the inventive polymer core fragment, the core fragment still has a shell remnant adhered thereon. Shell fragments are shown surrounding the remainder, exposed surfaces of the DRA polymer fragment. In the WO 98/16586 cross-section on the right, the finely divided polyolefin friction reducing agents are ground in the presence of a fatty acid wax partitioning agent surrounding all of its surface. Because the solid polyolefin friction reducing agents of WO 98/16586 are not encapsulated prior to being ground, there is no shell fragment or equivalent structure, and the solid polyolefin friction reducing agents of WO 98/16586 are less completely surrounded and protected from agglomeration.

The Examiner is again respectfully reminded that claim 1 herein recites "where the shell acts as an anti-agglomeration agent". As the Examiner notes, WO 98/16586 simply grinds a high molecular weight hydrocarbon-soluble polymer *in the presence of waxes*. This gives a different *structure* and compositional result from that claimed herein. When

the shells encapsulating the cores of the instant claims are ground, some portions of the shell fragments naturally and continue to adhere to the core fragments. These closely conformal shell fragments are a direct consequence and structural advantage of the encapsulation process. This residual physical adhesion enhances the anti-agglomeration effect of the shell because at that interface, that side of the core fragment is more physically protected from adhesion and agglomeration as contrasted with the sheared surfaces to which ground, loose shell fragments adhere relatively more loosely. The Examiner's attention is again respectfully directed to the sketch above.

The Applicants stipulate that the fatty acid wax partitioning agent of WO 98/16586 would adhere to the finely divided polyolefin friction reducing agents therein, but must urge that the method therein will *not* give a conformal, intimate or still-adhered shell remnants closely or conformally covering a polymer core fragment such as shown on the left with the shell remnant. The shell material, which encapsulates the core, is originally continuous and all encompassing and conformal with respect to the polymer core. Upon grinding, much of the shell will be broken off into fragments, which then acts as an anti-agglomerating agent, but some remnants will remain adhered onto the polymer core fragments. This coverage is much more complete, conformal and intimate than the relatively more porous shell fragments on the sheared surfaces of the polymer core fragment and the relatively more porous partitioning agent on the sheared surfaces of the finely divided polyolefin friction reducing agents. These other coatings are more porous because of the spaces or interstices between the shell fragments or partitioning agents.

Any shell fragments and partitioning agents added would be able to provide only a relatively more porous surface coverage, where fluids could more readily penetrate between the particles, as compared to shell remnants that are more continuous and conformal. It is thus respectfully submitted that there is, in fact, a *structural* difference between the particulate compounds produced according to claim 1 and the structures resulting from the WO 98/16586 method. Because WO 98/16586 does not start with a shell and core structure, the resulting ground structures must also be different. In short, the claim 1 composition is a different physical structure from that taught in WO 98/16586.

Because WO 98/16586 does not teach or suggest ground shell and core structures nor the fact that when such shell and core structures are ground the shell remnants or

pieces that remain adhered to the core fragments act as particularly effective anti-agglomeration agents as claimed relatively better than that taught by the reference, the reference does not teach each and every limitation of the amended claims. Further, because WO 98/16586 does not suggest or hint at the shell and core structures as claimed, the reference does not render obvious the claimed invention. The Applicants have amended the claims to recite the most gentle size reduction process recited in the application as filed, as helpfully suggested by the Examiner, and thus the particulate compounds are specified not only in terms of a different, contrasting structure from that of WO 98/16586 but also a different process to produce the claimed products.

Applicants realize that the polyolefins of WO 98/16586 are also cryoground, but the important structural distinction is the shell remnants that remain on the claimed polymer core fragments after grinding due to the initial shell surrounding the core.

Reconsideration is again respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §102/§103 Rejection over Kommareddi, et al.

The Examiner has rejected claims 29-32 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious over U.S. Pat. No. 6,126,872 to Kommareddi, et al.

The Examiner notes that the rejection is maintained for the reasons of record and the following response.

The Examiner notes that an invention in a product-by-process is a product, not a process. The Examiner contends that the Applicants failed to show that their product is different from that of Kommareddi, et al. obtained in the absence of a carrier.

The Applicants must again respectfully traverse.

Again, a patent claim is anticipated, and therefore invalid, only when a single prior art reference discloses each and every limitation of the claim. *Glaxo Inc. v. Novopharm Ltd.*, *id.*

The Examiner's attention is again respectfully directed to the language in independent claim 29 that the core comprises *the absence of a carrier*. It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner may have inadvertently not appreciated the impact that this

structural, compositional difference between the rejected claims and the Kommareddi, et al. reference which teaches the use of a solvent – please see Kommareddi, et al.’s Example 1 at column 8, lines 26-28 and Examples 4-6, Table I, column 10, line 58 where kerosene is taught as a solvent.

The Examiner’s attention is respectfully directed to paragraph [0004], page 2, lines 1-4 of the application as filed which state:

They [gel or solution DRAs] are also limited to about 10% polymer as a maximum concentration *in a carrier fluid* due to the high solution viscosity of these DRAs. Thus, *transportation costs of the DRA are considerable, since up to about 90% of the volume being transported and handled is inert material.* (Emphasis added.)

The Examiner’s attention is additionally respectfully directed to the application as filed on page 6, lines 3-5: “Thus, the MDRA may be easily handled in dry, particulate form and transported at low cost *without having to ship a solvent, carrier or slurry agent with it.*” (Emphasis added.)

The absence of a carrier also increases the polymer yield as the carrier portion of the core is substituted by monomer, which is then converted to polymer, enabling a product that has much higher polymer loading. Thus, the per se absence of a carrier is a compositional difference that gives an important economic advantage.

Further, the Examiner’s attention is respectfully directed to the entirety of Example 6, but particularly the first lines thereof on page 29, lines 12-15, the first four lines of paragraph [0089]:

This example highlights the elimination of the use of kerosene or mineral oil to act as a carrier for the catalyst and thereby increase the monomer loading in the core. The core contained 99.3 wt% 1-Decene, which is the highest in examples 4-6.

These claims (by way of independent claim 29) recite that the polymerization of the monomers in the core are not catalyzed by the main catalyst until a co-catalyst is added thereto, and that there is *an absence of a carrier* in the core. Kommareddi, et al. does not teach or suggest the absence of a carrier together with using a co-catalyst. Kommareddi, et al.’s relevant Examples 1, and 4-6 all use a kerosene carrier (please see again column 8,

lines 26-28 and Table I in column 10, last row thereof). Not only are these structures or compositions encompassed by these claims herein physically and structurally different from those taught or suggested by Kommareddi, et al. because the subject claims explicitly recite the absence of a carrier, but the absence of a carrier as required by the claims provides significant advantages because shipping costs are greatly reduced due to not having to transport a product that is largely inert carrier.

Because the single Kommareddi, et al. reference does not teach each and every limitation of claim 29, the instant claims are novel over the reference. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that Kommareddi, et al. does not suggest or hint about anything concerning the absence of a carrier in the core during the polymerizing of the monomer or polymers formed within the shell. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are further not obvious from the reference.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection over Kommareddi, et al. and Polyethylene Oxide of Aldrich Chemical Catalog

The Examiner has rejected claims 17-20 and 29-32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious over Kommareddi, et al. and the polyethylene oxide listing in the Aldrich Chemical Catalog (page 1245).

The instant invention recites the use of polyethylene oxide having a weight average molecular weight of 100,000 over Kommareddi, et al. Kommareddi, et al. teaches polyethylene oxide at col. 6, line 24 and it would encompass any molecular weight. Said polyethylene oxide having a weight average molecular weight of 100,000 is the art well known commercially available powder product as evidenced by Aldrich Chemical Catalog.

The Examiner alleges that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to utilize the art well known commercially available powder product, polyethylene oxide having a weight average molecular weight of 100,000 of Aldrich Chemical in Kommareddi, et al. since Kommareddi, et al. teach employing polyethylene oxide absent showing otherwise.

The Applicants must respectfully traverse. The Examiner has the initial burden of establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness of the pending claims over the cited prior art, *In re Oeticker, id.*

With respect to claims 17-20, the Applicants stipulate that the Kommareddi, et al. reference mentions the possibility that the shell material “might form a skin upon exposure to air or other gas”, where the “skin would not be soluble in the core”, the reference does not teach or suggest how such a skin is to be accomplished, for instance, what particular materials would do this. And further, while Kommareddi, et al. lists polyethylene oxide along with polybutylene, polymethacrylates, waxes, polyethylene glycol (PEG), methoxylated PEG, polyethylene waxes and stearic acid as suitable shell materials, the reference, does not show or suppose that a skin may be formed by *polyethylene oxide* specifically, much less *polyethylene oxide having a molecular weight of about 100,000*. And while the Aldrich Chemical Catalog excerpt teaches that polyethylene oxide may have a weight average molecular weight of 100,000, this excerpt is completely silent about whether this material may form a skin when used as a shell material in an encapsulation structure.

The Federal Circuit has held that, in order for an invention to be obvious over the prior art, two things must be found in the prior art, and not in the Appellants’ disclosure — (1) the suggestion of the invention, and (2) the expectation of its success. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 493; 20 U.S.P.Q.2d 1438, 1442 (Fed. Cir. 1991). It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has not found the suggestion of the invention in these references taken alone or together. If one having ordinary skill in the art was faced with the technical problem of providing an encapsulated compound where the shell forms a skin over the outer surface thereof, there is nothing in either of these references that would cause such a person to selected polyethylene oxide. Thus, there is no suggestion of the invention, and further there is no expectation of the invention’s success since one having ordinary skill in the art would not from the bare teachings of Kommareddi, et al. or Aldrich expect polyethylene oxide to form a skin when used as a shell material. The Federal Circuit has held that the teachings of the prior art cannot be combined to establish obviousness unless some suggestion or incentive exists to support the combination. *In re Napier*, 55 F.3d 610, 613, 34 U.S.P.Q.2d 1782 (Fed. Cir. 1995). It is respectfully submitted that no such suggestion or

incentive is found in the references taken alone or together, indeed neither of the references teach any particular shell material that may form a skin as claimed.

“The mere fact that the prior art could be so modified would not have made the modification obvious unless the prior art suggested the desirability of the modification.” *In re Gordon*, 733 F.2d 900, 902, 221 U.S.P.Q. 1125, 1127 (Fed. Cir. 1984) cited in *In re Mills*, 916 F.2d 680, 16 U.S.P.Q.2d 1430 (Fed. Cir. 1990), in turn cited by MPEP §2143.01. The claimed invention requires “a shell encapsulating the core, where the shell contains polyethylene oxide of a molecular weight of about 100,000 weight average where the polyethylene oxide forms a skin over the outer surface thereof” and there is nothing in the cited references that teaches or suggests the recited structure having the specific, recited feature of a skin formed over the outer surface of a polyethylene oxide film.

“Our reviewing courts have often advised the Patent and Trademark Office that it can satisfy the burden of establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness only by showing some objective teaching in either the prior art, or knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, that ‘would lead’ that individual ‘to combine the relevant teachings in the references.’ Accordingly, an examiner cannot establish obviousness by locating references which describe aspects of a patent applicant’s invention without also providing evidence of the motivating force which would impel one skilled in the art to do what the patent applicant has done.” [Citations omitted; emphasis added.] *Ex parte Levengood*, 28 U.S.P.Q.2d 1300, 1302 (B.P.A.I. 1993). It is respectfully submitted that there is nothing in the references that would impel one having ordinary skill in the art to use polyethylene oxide as a shell material where polyethylene oxide forms a skin over the outer surface thereof, particularly when the art is silent on this possibility.

This principle was affirmed by the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in *In re Rouffet*, 47 U.S.P.Q.2d 1453 (Fed. Cir. 1998). The court held that even though the level of ordinary skill in the art was high and the differences between the reference teachings and the claims *were* obvious, the examiner and the Board had not provided any motivation for combining the references, and the Board’s decision was reversed. It is not obvious to combine references unless one had in mind the purpose taught by the applicant; that is, it is not proper to “cite applicant’s” teaching, *In re Stencel*, 4 U.S.P.Q.2d 1071, 1073; 828

F.2d 751 (Fed. Cir. 1987). It is respectfully submitted that here the Examiner has not shown where either of the references had in mind the purpose of the Applicants, as claimed. While Kommareddi, et al. had in mind shell materials capable of forming skins, they did not suggest or teach how to accomplish it.

Again, Kommareddi, et al. does not teach or suggest the structure of polyethylene oxide having a skin over the outer surface of the shell, or that the molecular weight of the shell should be about 100,000. Because the single Kommareddi, et al. reference does not teach each and every limitation of the claim, the instant claims are novel over the reference. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that Kommareddi, et al. does not suggest or hint anything about approximately 100,000 molecular weight polyethylene oxide bearing or having a skin over the outer surface of the shell. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are not obvious from the reference.

With respect to claims 29-32, the Applicants recall that these claims all require the absence of a carrier. As established above with respect to Kommareddi, et al. alone, this is a structural difference from the references, taken alone or in combination, that is not taught by either of them or suggested by both of them when taken together. The structural difference is the absence of a carrier within the shell. It is respectfully submitted that neither Kommareddi, et al. or the Aldrich Chemical Catalog excerpt teach this structure or that it is possible to obtain useful capsules containing polymers thereby. Kommareddi, et al. teaches that a carrier or solvent (*i.e.* kerosene) would be used; please see Examples 4-6 therein.

The Examiner's attention is again respectfully directed to page 2, lines 1-4 of the application as filed where it is taught that it would be desirable to avoid transporting inert material to reduce the cost of transportation. The Examiner's attention is additionally respectfully directed to the application as filed on page 6, lines 3-5 where the point of avoiding a solvent, carrier or slurry agent to reduce transportation costs is again made. Stated another way, the absence of a carrier increases the polymer yield as the carrier portion of the core is substituted by monomer, which is then converted to polymer, enabling a product that has much higher polymer loading.

Further, the Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to the entirety of Example 6, but particularly the first lines thereof on page 29, lines 12-15, the first four lines of

paragraph [0089] where Example 6 proves the concept of eliminating a carrier, particularly the polymerization of the monomers in the core are not catalyzed by the main catalyst until a co-catalyst is added thereto, and that there is *an absence of a carrier* in the core. Kommareddi, et al. does not teach or suggest the absence of a carrier together with using a co-catalyst. Kommareddi, et al.'s relevant Examples 1, and 4-6 all use a kerosene carrier (please see again the places noted above). Not only are these structures or compositions encompassed by these claims herein physically and structurally different from those taught or suggested by Kommareddi, et al. because the subject claims explicitly recite the absence of a carrier, but the absence of a carrier as required by the claims provides significant advantages because shipping costs are greatly reduced due to not having to transport a product that is largely inert carrier.

Because the Kommareddi, et al. reference alone or together with the Aldrich excerpt does not suggest or hint about anything concerning the absence of a carrier in the core during the polymerizing of the monomer or polymers formed within the shell, the claims 29-32 are not obvious therefrom. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §102/§103 Rejection over Martin, et al.

The Examiner has rejected claims 29-31 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious over U.S. patent application 2003/0113445 to Martin, et al.

The Examiner notes that the rejection is maintained for the reason of record and the following response. Again, an invention in a product-by-process is a product, not a process.

Again, the Applicants must respectfully traverse.

Once more, a patent claim is anticipated, and therefore invalid, only when a single prior art reference discloses each and every limitation of the claim. *Glaxo Inc. v. Novopharm Ltd.*, *id.* Additionally, to support an obviousness rejection, the Examiner has the initial burden of establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness of the pending claims over the cited prior art, *In re Oeticker*, *id.*

It is respectfully submitted that claims 29-31 are allowable over Martin, et al. for the same reason that they are patentable over Kommareddi, et al., as established above. The Examiner's attention is again respectfully directed to the language in independent claim 29 that the core comprises *the absence of a carrier*. It is once more respectfully submitted that the Examiner may have inadvertently not appreciated the impact that this structural difference between the rejected claims and the Kommareddi, et al. reference which teaches the use of a solvent – please see Kommareddi, et al.'s Example 1 at column 8, lines 26-28 and Examples 4-6, Table I, column 10, line 58 where kerosene is taught as a solvent.

Again, the Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to page 2, lines 1-4 of the application as filed which state:

They are also limited to about 10% polymer as a maximum concentration *in a carrier fluid* due to the high solution viscosity of these DRAs. Thus, *transportation costs of the DRA are considerable, since up to about 90% of the volume being transported and handled is inert material.* (Emphasis added.)

The Examiner's attention is additionally respectfully directed to the application as filed on page 6, lines 3-5: "Thus, the MDRA may be easily handled in dry, particulate form and transported at low cost *without having to ship a solvent, carrier or slurry agent with it.*" (Emphasis added.) Stated another way, the absence of a carrier increases the polymer yield as the carrier portion of the core is substituted by monomer, which is then converted to polymer, enabling a product that has much higher polymer loading with a greatly reduced amount of inert material.

Further, the Examiner's attention is again respectfully directed to the entirety of Example 6, but particularly the first lines thereof on page 29, lines 12-15, the first four lines of paragraph [0089]:

This example highlights the elimination of the use of kerosene or mineral oil to act as a carrier for the catalyst and thereby increase the monomer loading in the core. The core contained 99.3 wt% 1-Decene, which is the highest in examples 4-6.

These claims (by way of independent claim 29) recite that the polymerization of the monomers in the core are not catalyzed by the main catalyst until a co-catalyst is added

thereto, and that there is *an absence of a carrier* in the core. Kommareddi, et al. does not teach or suggest the absence of a carrier together with using a co-catalyst. Kommareddi, et al.'s relevant Examples 1, and 4-6 all use a kerosene carrier (please see again column 8, lines 26-28 and Table I in column 10, last row). Not only are these structures or compositions encompassed by these claims herein physically and structurally different from those taught or suggested by Kommareddi, et al. because the subject claims explicitly recite the absence of a material generally required: a carrier, but the absence of a carrier as required by the claims provides significant advantages because shipping costs are greatly reduced due to not having to transport a product that is largely inert carrier. This difference is one of kind, not degree; either the carrier is present or it is not, and these claims require that it not be present in the core.

Because the single Martin, et al. reference does not teach each and every limitation of claim 29, the instant claims are novel over the reference. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that Martin, et al. does not suggest or hint about anything concerning the absence of a carrier in the core during the polymerizing of the monomer or polymers formed within the shell. The Examiner's attention is particularly and respectfully directed to paragraph [0122] of Martin, et al. from page 7, the next to the last line of the first column through to the next column, line 4, where it is stated, "The components of the core may be mixed together by, for example, melt blending or by dissolving or *dispersing the components in water or some other solvent.*" (Emphasis added.)

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are further not obvious from the reference since the physical structure claimed is not taught or suggested by Martin, et al. alone. For all of these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the instant rejection must fail. The single reference does not suggest or hint at each and every limitation of the claim, and furthermore, Martin, et al. does not teach or suggest employing those necessary elements recited in the remaining rejected claims – there is no motivation noted by the Examiner for modifying Martin, et al. to result in the recited structures of the claims where a carrier or solvent is absent. The Examiner has not noted any such motivation. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

The Applicants also respectfully submit a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR §1.56 to submit WO 03/106809 A1. This document was found July 21, 2004 while doing research on another project. A Certification in lieu of a fee is provided under 37 CFR §1.97(e). A PTO/SB/08A is provided in association with this Supplemental IDS. A copy of the document is provided.

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments and arguments presented above overcome all objections and rejections of the claims. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested. The Examiner is respectfully reminded of the duty to indicate allowable subject matter. The Examiner is invited to call the Applicants' attorney at the number below for any reason, especially any reason that may help advance the prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,
NAGESH S. KOMMAREDDI, et al.,



David L. Mossman

Registration No. 29,570
Attorney for Applicants
Telephone No. 512/219-4026
Facsimile No. 512/219-4036

Madan, Mossman & Sriram, P.C.
2603 Augusta, Suite 700
Houston, TX 77057-5638